



NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Health Assesses Penalties on Septic Tank Pumping Companies

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health has assessed \$700,000 in penalties on Hurley Enterprises and MonDak Septic Service for improper disposal of domestic wastewater in western North Dakota in 2011 and 2012. Each of the responsible drivers for these septic tank pumping companies also were assessed a \$1,500 penalty.

State law requires septic tank pumpers to obtain a license to land-apply wastewater in a manner that minimizes the impact to public and environmental health. If improperly handled, domestic wastewater can pose a threat to humans, because it may contain pathogens and disease-causing bacteria. Nutrients and other chemical compounds in domestic waste also can degrade surface waters and may cause fish kills or death of other animals.

As part of the fine provided by Hurley Enterprises, a septic tank pumper compliance training program will be developed. In addition, MonDak Septic Service has constructed regional domestic wastewater treatment lagoons, which will help alleviate the need for land application in the region. Each company will be required to maintain detailed records of all domestic waste treatment and disposal activities.

Since discovery of the violations, both companies have been in compliance with state law.

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